

'have had the nerve to make the speech/ and  
 whether your  
 'body would have proved as healthy.' I can  
 answer both  
 questions with absolute certainty. Your nerve  
 would not  
 have been affected in the least, you would  
 have made the  
 speech as a matter of course, and your body  
 would have  
 proved *more* healthy. You would have shown  
 the absolute  
 coolness and courage and lack of thought of  
 self that your  
 brother showed when mauled by the lions.  
 Modern civiliza-  
 tion is undoubtedly somewhat soft, and the  
 average politi-  
 cal orator or party leader, the average broker,  
 or banker, or  
 factory owner, at least when he is past  
 middle age, is apt  
 to be soft—I mean both mentally and physically  
 —and such,  
 a man accepts being shot as a frightful and  
 unheard-of  
 calamity, and feels very sorry for himself and  
 thinks only  
 of himself and not of the work on which he is  
 engaged or  
 of his duty to others, or indeed of his real self-  
 respect. But  
 a good soldier or sailor, or for the matter of  
 that even a  
 civilian accustomed to hard and hazardous  
 pursuits, a deep-  
 sea fisherman, or railway-man, or cow-boy, or  
 lumber-jack,  
 or miner, would normally act as I acted  
 without thinking  
 anything about it. I believe half the men in  
 my regiment  
 at the least would have acted just as I acted.  
 Think how  
 many Bulgars during the last month have  
 acted in just the  
 same fashion and never even had their names  
 mentioned  
 in bulletins!

\*'Beeently John Murray sent me 'The Life of  
 Sir Harry  
 Smith/ and I was reading his experiences in  
 the Peninsula

War, and his account of the many officers who continued to perform their duties with bullets in them, it being often many hours before a surgeon could attend to them. Why! even in our little San Juan fight there were thirteen men of my regiment who after being shot continued to fight. Now I wish to rank myself with such men as Harry Smith and his comrades in the Peninsula War, and with the men in my regiment, and I expect to be judged by their standards and not by the standards of that particular kind of money-maker whose soul has grown hard while his body has grown